

From: Kevin Hubbard
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:46am
Subject: MS Settlement

I'm disappointed. Yes I live in Washington State, yes many of my friends and fellow engineers work for Microsoft. For their sake, Washington State sake, and USA economy sake, I should be happy that Bill and Co only got a mild wrist slapping, but I'm not.

Microsoft's business practices are monopolistic, which is surely wrong from a good vs. evil perspective as they put little companies out of business.

What really makes me angry about Microsoft and this ruling is that their monopolistic business practices stifles innovation in the technical arena which I am dependent on for a living. Microsoft is on the verge of taking over access to the web after shutting Netscape nearly out of business. Internet Explorer has been forced onto 90% of the PCs in the land. Now the web-site norm is to support InternetExplorer as a requirement. We're starting to see many web-sites no longer work properly with the underdogs (Netscape, Mozilla, etc.). Just last week my employer installed a Microsoft Proxy Server, which by-the-way, runs just great with Explorer, but when Netscape is used to talk to the Web thru the MS-ProxyServer, you are required to login with a username a password after a 10minute timeout. Is Microsoft shutting out the competition 100%, No, but they are being just annoying enough to persuade the common user to ditch all products other than theirs. Just like MS-Word before it, nobody loses their job making their web-site talk to InternetExplorer and not Konqueror or Mozilla or some other browser. InternetExplorer is not available for open-source OS's such as Linux. Its not even available for Sun Solaris. Thats a problem. Why is Microsoft giving away InternetExplorer for MS-Windows users but not providing InternetExplorer for alternate OS's, either in compiled binary or source code? Simple. This emerging strangle-hold on web-browsing is positioning alternate OS's out of business. Thats bad.

Best Regards,

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